(a) whether Government propose to denationalise the coal sector in-the near future; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Coal Mines were nationalised so as to provide adequate investments for coordinated and scientific development and utilisation of coal resources. In view of the quantum jump in coal requirements mainly from the power sector and need for larger investments, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act was amended to allow private sector to undertake captive coal mining for generation of power, washing of coal and such other end uses as may be notified by the Central Government. However, Government does not see any need to privatise existing public sector coal companies.

Outstanding dues of Coal India Limited from SERs and other coal consumers

4269. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that various State Electricity Boards and other large coal consumers owe Coal India Limited over Rupees 3,000 crores; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to ensure the payment of the money owed to Coal India Limited and alleviate its financial burden ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) It is true that Power Utilities and other consumers owe about Rs. 3,907 crores (provisional) to Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 31-3-1994 for supply of coal. The total outstanding dues of CIL from Power Utilities alone added upto Rs. 3,127.44 crores (provisional) as on 31-3-1994.

(b) Following steps are being taken to recover the outstanding dues:

(i) All power units commissioned after 1-4-1989 were being supplied coal only against advance payments or against revolving Letter of Credit.

(ii) Government of India have adjusted in four equal annual instalments all undisputed coal sales outstanding as on 31-5-1990 against the Central Assistance to State Plans payable to the State Governments whose State Electricity Boards and Power Utilities had defaulted.

(iii) In view of the mounting arrears of coal sale dues, Ministry of Coal advised CIL to start supplying coal to the Power Utilities only against advance payments. This scheme which is better known as 'Cash and Carry Scheme' was introduced with effect from 1-10-1991.

(iv) State Governments have been requested to pursuade/enable their State Electricity Boards to clear the outstanding dues at the earliest.

(v) Joint Secretary, incharge of distribution of coal in the Ministry of Coal visited many state Governments and held discussions with the Power Secretaries and Chairman Electricity Boards for resolving the matter regarding clearance of outstanding dues.

कोल इंडिया लि० में अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के कर्मचारी

4270. श्री अजीत जोगी : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कोल इंडिया लि० में कार्यरत अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के कर्मचारियों की श्रेणीवार संख्या कितनी-कितनी है;

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान कोलम्बो योजना के अधीन कोल इंडिया लि० द्वारा कोयला खानकार कितने खनन अभियंताओं को विदेश भेजा गया ;

(ग) उनमें से अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के कितने अभियंता हैं; और

(घ) कोलम्बो योजना के लिए उम्मीदवारों के चयन हेतु मानदंड क्या हैं ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित कुमार पांजा) : (क) :

वर्ग	अनुसूचित जातिके कर्मचारियों की संख्या	अनुसूचित जनजाति के कर्मचारियों की संख्या
ए . .	725	236
बी . .	1452	1014